



Utah In Pre-Pioneer Days

SQUATTER'S RIGHT

By Elizabeth Burningham

I wish that I could penetrate the mists
That shroud this piece of acre we call home—
Back in a blurred antiquity
What others claim it?
What man, or was it only beast,
Loved it for his own?
What fight was fought, what love won,
What child in lonely travail born
Upon this spot where now we calmly sit
And let the secret-storied dirt
Course through our fingers?
What human dust, long vanquished,
Has this ancient soil absorbed?
That little tree, there by its irrigation ditch,
Accepts it lightly, too.
The two of us, the tree and I, wisely and dully,
Think of our squatter's right,
As though it were a claim eternal.

In presenting a correct history of Utah, our aim is to go into every phase of Utah's history that will lend to a thorough knowledge of its founding. While most of our attention has been given to the pioneer period, yet the time leading up to the colonization by the Mormon Pioneers is interesting and filled with romantic history.

JOHN C. FREMONT

Among those to be considered as an important character in the west is John C. Fremont, possibly the first man to make a survey of the Great Salt Lake and other western valleys. It is said that the Mormon Pioneers depended upon his printed reports in making their plans to cross the plains and establish themselves in the Great Salt Lake valley. His first trip into the west was in the autumn of 1842-43, when he came here on what is known in history as the Wind River Mountain exploration. It was made under the direction and pay of the United States Government. With him were twenty men with the famous scouter, Kit Carson, as guide. Many call him the "Trail Maker" but he really followed the path that had been made by Ashley, Henry, Bridger and Carson, and others. But so many immigrants and pioneers followed the map of the paths which he drew, we must give to him the honor of being the man who mapped the trail. Congress published and distributed thousands of the trail maps, and they were the means of saving a great deal of time and sacrifice by the immigrant.

